GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1820
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2003
IMPORT OF TEA
MONI KUMAR SUBBA

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total tea imports from China, Myanmar and other countries during 2001-02, 2002-03 and the current year, so far;

(b) whether it is imported at rates much below the cost of production of tea in India;

(c) if so, the average import-cost and cost of production of indigenous tea; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken to ensure level playing and fair competition to indigenous producers of tea and to prevent dumping of imported tea at cheaper rates?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO)

(a): The total tea imports from China, Myanmar and other countries from 2001-02 till April-May, 2003 is given below:-

(Figures in Million Kgs.)

Imports from	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04 (April-May)#	2002-03 (April-May)
China	0.13	0.26	0.08	0.10
Myanmar	-	-	-	-
Other countries	16.01	19.38	1.26	1.48
Total	16.14	19.64	1.34	1.58

= Provisional

(b): Tea was imported into India at an unit C.I.F. price ranging from Rs.30.30 per kg., to Rs.400.76 per kg.,during the aforesaid period. However, the average unit C.I.F. prices stood at Rs.51.86 per kg. in 2001-02, Rs.46.30 per kg. in 2002-03 and Rs.58.00 per kg. during April-May 2003-04, which are below the cost of production of tea in India.

(c): The average import-cost and cost of production of indigenous tea is given below:-

(Rs./Kg.)

2002-2003	
Unit C.I.F. Price	Estimated cost of Production of Tea in India
46.30	50.00 to 65.00

(d): In order to prevent any surge in imports of tea into India, the import duty on tea has been increased from 70% to 100%. Imported tea has also to conform to the same quality parameters stipulated under Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 which are applicable on teas produced in India.